

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 22 with the following amended paragraph.

The chelating agent may be premixed with the reducing agent and alkaline source and/or other composition components or it may be mixed at the time of application to the object to be cleaned. As such, these chelating agents may be used in any physical form including solid beads, dissolved in an aqueous solution, powder, or any combination thereof.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 29 with the following amended paragraph.

The composition ~~of~~ may also contain a cleaning agent, filler, an anti-corrosion agent, a defoaming agent, an odorant, a dye, an antioxidant, or a bleaching agent. These additional components may be premixed with the reducing agent and alkaline source and/or other composition components or they may be mixed at the time of application to the object to be cleaned. As such, these additional components may be used in any physical form including solid beads, dissolved in an aqueous solution, powder, or any combination thereof.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 24 with the following amended paragraph.

Another suitable method of using the composition includes immersing the object to be cleaned in a composition comprising a reducing agent, such as elemental aluminum in zero oxidation state, an alkaline source, such as sodium carbonate, ~~such as water~~ and an aqueous solution, such as water; and washing the object with an aqueous solution. In such an application, the alkaline source may be added to the aqueous solution before immersion of the object and the reducing agent may be added before or after immersion of the object. This method may be used as a clean-in-place cleaning regimen, where the solution is introduced into the equipment as assembled, or as a clean-out-of-place cleaning regimen, where the equipment is disassembled and inserted into basins containing the cleaning solution.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 10 with the following amended paragraph.

The object to be cleaned may remain in contact with the composition for any amount of time as long as the removal of silver soil is effective. The amount of time will of course depend on the concentration of the composition, the route of delivery, the amount of silver soil to be removed, and the surface area of the silver soil. For example, the composition is in contact with the object for about 30 to 120 minutes, when the immersion technique is used.